

## **Washington State Citizen Committee on Pipeline Safety Conflict of Interest Policy**

In order for the Washington State Citizen Committee on Pipeline Safety (CCOPS) to pursue its mission and to maintain its reputation with the public, government agencies, elected officials, and the pipeline industry it is important that the decisions and actions of the CCOPS not be unduly influenced by the special interests of individual members. Accordingly, CCOPS has adopted the following Conflict of Interest Policy:

Decisions made by CCOPS members should always be based solely on the best interest of CCOPS and the people of Washington State. Decisions should not be influenced by personal financial interest or by other extraneous considerations. Any affiliation with an organization having fundamental goals that conflict with the CCOPS and the CCOPS mission should be avoided. Any current, previous (within 2 years), or future potential conflict of interest should be disclosed at the beginning of each advisory committee meeting.

A potential conflict of interest exists when a committee member has a relationship or engages in any activity, or has any personal financial interest which might impair his/her independence or judgment or inappropriately influence his/her decisions or actions concerning advisory committee matters.

A potential conflict of interest exists and should be disclosed if the committee member:

- Owns a material financial interest (5 percent or more) in any business that provides or seeks to provide goods or services to CCOPS.
- Has an affiliation with an organization or company that has a financial interest in CCOPS recommendations.
- Has an affiliation with an organization that has a competing activity.

Each committee member has a high duty and obligation to disclose to the entire committee any potential conflict of interest and to abstain from any decision where a significant conflict of interest exists. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the entire committee to determine what, if any, limitations on activities with regard to the committee member's conflict are required to protect the CCOPS.